LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A conveyor dishwasher having at least one washing zone, at least one rinsing ~~zone~~ zone, ~~and/or~~ a heat-recovery ~~device~~ device, ~~and/or~~ a drying zone ~~and/or~~ and a suction-extraction means, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

an exhaust-air fan is employed in the suction-extraction means for exhausting air from a plurality of the zones through the heat recovery device;

a plurality of openings are provided between the zones and the suction-extraction means for conducting flows of air from the zones to the suction-extraction means;

a closing element is provided at each opening for controlling the flow of air through the opening, each of the closing elements being movable between an open position, a wholly closed position and a partially closed position; and wherein

~~openings for the suction extraction of air from the dishwasher and/or the overall quantity of an exhaust-airstream can be closed and released, directly or indirectly by the wash ware via deflectable lever elements,~~ the movement of the closing elements between the open, wholly closed and partially closed positions is controlled in dependence on ~~the operating~~ an operating state of individual ~~treatment~~ ones of the zones of the dishwasher.

2. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the capacity ~~of an~~ of the exhaust-air fan, and thus the exhaust-air quantity ~~withdrawn, in a~~ withdrawn through the heat-recovery device ~~can be~~ is controlled in dependence on the operating state or states ~~of the dishwasher~~.

3. (withdrawn - currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the capacity of the exhaust-air fan ~~can be~~ is controlled in dependence on the ~~position~~ positions of the closing elements.

4. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ and further comprising:

a speed control means for varying the capacity of the exhaust-air fan; and wherein

the capacity of the exhaust-air fan ~~in the heat-recovery device~~ can be varied ~~via a~~ via the speed-control means in dependence on the operating state or states ~~of the dishwasher~~.

5. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the speed-control means ~~is designed as~~ comprises a frequency converter ~~or by~~ or an electric drive of the exhaust-air fan with a multiple coil.

6. (currently amended) A process for operating a conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the suction extraction of air from the conveyor dishwasher takes place in dependence on the operating state or states of the conveyor dishwasher, the operating state or states being controlled ~~directly or indirectly~~ by the disposition of wash ware in the dishwasher.

7. (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the closing elements are wholly or partially closed when the at least one washing ~~zones are~~ zone is switched off, the at least one rinsing zone is switched off and the drying zone is switched off, and when there is no wash ware located in these ~~regions~~ zones.

8. (withdrawn - currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the closing elements are open when the at least one washing ~~zones are~~ zone is switched on, the at least one rinsing zone is switched on and ~~the drying~~ a drying function using the drying zone is switched on, and when there is wash ware located in these ~~regions~~ zones.

9. (withdrawn - currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a ~~fourth~~ flap, which controls the mixing of ambient air with the overall exhaust-airstream, is activated in dependence on the degree of opening of the closing elements.

10. (withdrawn - currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the capacity of the exhaust-air fan of the heat-recovery device is varied in dependence on the opening position of the closing elements.

11. (new) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein the movement of the closing elements between the open, wholly closed and partially open positions is effected directly or indirectly by wash ware in the dishwasher via deflectable lever elements.